

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Gas Related Activities Act of 1990’.

“SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“(a) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ACQUISITIONS INVOLVING GAS COMPANIES OR GAS TRANSPORTATION OR STORAGE.—The acquisition by a registered company of any interest in any natural gas company or of any interest in any company organized to participate in activities involving the transportation or storage of natural gas, shall be deemed, for the purposes of section 11(b)(1) of the Act [15 U.S.C. 79k(b)(1)], to be reasonably incidental or economically necessary or appropriate to the operation of such gas utility companies.

“(b) TREATMENT OF ACQUISITIONS RELATED TO SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS; COMMISSION DETERMINATION OF CUSTOMER INTEREST.—The acquisition by a registered company of any interest in any company organized to participate in activities (other than those of a natural gas company or involving the transportation or storage of natural gas) related to the supply of natural gas, including exploration, development, production, marketing, manufacture, or other similar activities related to the supply of natural or manufactured gas, shall be deemed, for purposes of section 11(b)(1) of the Act [15 U.S.C. 79k(b)(1)], to be reasonably incidental or economically necessary or appropriate to the operation of such gas utility companies, if—

“(1) the Commission determines, after notice and opportunity for hearing in which the company proposing the acquisition shall have the burden of proving, that such acquisition is in the interest of consumers of each gas utility company of such registered company or consumers of any other subsidiary of such registered company; and

“(2) the Commission determines that such acquisition will not be detrimental to the interest of consumers of any such gas utility company or other subsidiary or to the proper functioning of the registered holding company system.

“(c) CASE-BY-CASE DECISIONS REQUIRED.—Each such determination under this section shall be made on a case-by-case basis, and not be based on any preset criteria.

“(d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the applicability of any other provisions of the Act to the acquisition or retention of any such interest by any such company.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) the term ‘registered company’ means a company registered under the Act solely by reason of direct or indirect ownership of voting securities of one or more gas utility companies, or any subsidiary company of such registered company;

“(2) the term ‘natural gas company’ has the meaning given such term under the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717(a) et seq.) [15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.; term defined in 15 U.S.C. 717a]; and

“(3) the term ‘the Act’ means the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 [15 U.S.C. 79 et seq.].”

COGENERATION ACTIVITIES BY GAS UTILITY HOLDING COMPANY SYSTEMS

Pub. L. 99-186, Dec. 18, 1985, 99 Stat. 1180, as amended by Pub. L. 99-553, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3087; Pub. L. 102-486, title VII, §713, Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2911, provided that:

“SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 11(b)(1) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 [15 U.S.C. 79k(b)(1)], a company registered under said Act [15 U.S.C. 79 et seq.], or a subsidiary company of such registered company, may acquire or retain, in any geographic area, an interest in any qualifying cogeneration facilities and qualifying small power production facilities as defined pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 [see Short Title note set out under 16 U.S.C. 2601], and shall qualify for any exemption relating to the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 prescribed pursuant to section 210 of

the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 [16 U.S.C. 824a-3].

“SEC. 2. Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the applicability of section 3(17)(C) or section 3(18)(B) of the Federal Power Act [16 U.S.C. 796(17)(C), (18)(B)] or any provision of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, other than section 11(b)(1), to the acquisition or retention of any such interest by any such company.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 79j, 79z-3, 79z-5a, 79z-5b, 79z-5c of this title; title 26 sections 1081, 1083; title 42 section 8221.

§ 79I. Intercompany and other transactions relating to registered companies

(a) Borrowing from other companies in same system

It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, to borrow, or to receive any extension of credit or indemnity, from any public-utility company in the same holding-company system or from any subsidiary company of such holding company, but it shall not be unlawful under this subsection to renew, or extend the time of, any loan, credit, or indemnity outstanding on August 26, 1935.

(b) Loans to other companies in same system

It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, to lend or in any manner extend its credit to or indemnify any company in the same holding-company system in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this chapter or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(c) Payment of dividends or retirement of securities

It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to declare or pay any dividend on any security of such company or to acquire, retire, or redeem any security of such company, in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate to protect the financial integrity of companies in holding-company systems, to safeguard the working capital of public-utility companies, to prevent the payment of dividends out of capital or unearned surplus, or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this chapter or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(d) Sale of securities of other companies

It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to sell any security which it owns of any public-utility company, or any utility assets, in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding the consideration to be

received for such sale, maintenance of competitive conditions, fees and commissions, accounts, disclosure of interest, and similar matters as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this chapter or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(e) Solicitation of proxies, powers of attorney, etc., regarding securities

It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit or to permit the use of his or its name to solicit, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, any proxy, power of attorney, consent, or authorization regarding any security of a registered holding company or a subsidiary company thereof in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this chapter or the rules, regulations, or orders thereunder.

(f) Negotiations or transactions with other companies in contravention of rules and regulations of Commission

It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company or subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to negotiate, enter into, or take any step in the performance of any transaction not otherwise unlawful under this chapter, with any company in the same holding-company system or with any affiliate of a company in such holding-company system in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding reports, accounts, costs, maintenance of competitive conditions, disclosure of interest, duration of contracts, and similar matters as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers or to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations thereunder.

(g) Negotiations or transactions by affiliate in contravention of rules and regulations of Commission

It shall be unlawful for any affiliate of any public-utility company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or for any affiliate of any public-utility company engaged in interstate commerce, or of any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to negotiate, enter into, or take any step in the performance of any transaction not otherwise unlawful under this chapter, with any such company of which it is an affiliate, in contravention of such rules and regulations or orders regarding reports, accounts, costs, maintenance of competitive conditions, disclosure of interest, duration of contracts, and similar matters as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate to prevent the circumvention of the provisions of this chapter.

(h) Political contributions forbidden

It shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, or any subsidiary company thereof, by

use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, directly or indirectly—

(1) to make any contribution whatsoever in connection with the candidacy, nomination, election or appointment of any person for or to any office or position in the Government of the United States, a State, or any political subdivision of a State, or any agency, authority, or instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing; or

(2) to make any contribution to or in support of any political party or any committee or agency thereof.

The term “contribution” as used in this subsection includes any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value, and includes any contract, agreement, or promise, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution.

(i) Representation before Congress or Commissions; filing statement of employment, compensation, etc.

It shall be unlawful for any person employed or retained by any registered holding company, or any subsidiary company thereof, to present, advocate, or oppose any matter affecting any registered holding company or any subsidiary company thereof, before the Congress or any Member or committee thereof, or before the Commission or Federal Power Commission, or any member, officer, or employee of either such Commission, unless such person shall file with the Commission in such form and detail and at such time as the Commission shall by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, a statement of the subject matter in respect of which such person is retained or employed, the nature and character of such retainer or employment, and the amount of compensation received or to be received by such person, directly or indirectly, in connection therewith. It shall be the duty of every such person so employed or retained to file with the Commission within ten days after the close of each calendar month during such retainer or employment, in such form and detail as the Commission shall by rules and regulations or order prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers, a statement of the expenses incurred and the compensation received by such person during such month in connection with such retainer or employment.

(Aug. 26, 1935, ch. 687, title I, § 12, 49 Stat. 823.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Federal Power Commission terminated and functions, personnel, property, funds, etc., transferred to Secretary of Energy (except for certain functions transferred to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) by sections 7151(b), 7171(a), 7172(a), 7291, and 7293 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

For transfer of functions of Securities and Exchange Commission, with certain exceptions, to Chairman of such Commission, see Reorg. Plan No. 10 of 1950, §§ 1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3175, 64 Stat. 1265, set out under section 78d of this title.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Definition of term “contribution or expenditure” for purposes of subsec. (h) of this section as including any

direct or indirect payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money, or any services, or anything of value (except a loan of money by a national or State bank made in accordance with the applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business) to any candidate, campaign committee, or political party or organization, in connection with any election to any of the offices referred to in section 441b of Title 2, The Congress, but not including (A) communications by a corporation to its stockholders and executive or administrative personnel and their families or by a labor organization to its members and their families on any subject; (B) nonpartisan registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns by a corporation aimed at its stockholders and executive or administrative personnel and their families, or by a labor organization aimed at its members and their families; and (C) the establishment, administration, and solicitation of contributions to a separate segregated fund to be utilized for political purposes by a corporation, labor organization, membership organization, cooperative, or corporation without capital stock, see section 441b(b)(2) of Title 2, The Congress.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 2 section 441b.

§ 79m. Service, sales, and construction contracts

(a) Contracts by holding companies

After April 1, 1936, it shall be unlawful for any registered holding company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to enter into or take any step in the performance of any service, sales, or construction contract by which such company undertakes to perform services or construction work for, or sell goods to, any associate company thereof which is a public-utility or mutual service company. This provision shall not apply to such transactions, involving special or unusual circumstances or not in the ordinary course of business, as the Commission by rules and regulations or order may conditionally or unconditionally exempt as being necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(b) Contracts by subsidiary or mutual service companies

After April 1, 1936, it shall be unlawful for any subsidiary company of any registered holding company or for any mutual service company, by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or otherwise, to enter into or take any step in the performance of any service, sales, or construction contract by which such company undertakes to perform services or construction work for, or sell goods to, any associate company thereof except in accordance with such terms and conditions and subject to such limitations and prohibitions as the Commission by rules and regulations or order shall prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers and to insure that such contracts are performed economically and efficiently for the benefit of such associate companies at cost, fairly and equitably allocated among such companies. This provision shall not apply to such transactions as the Commission by rules and regulations or order may conditionally or unconditionally exempt as being necessary or appropriate in the public interest or

for the protection of investors or consumers, if such transactions (1) are with any associate company which does not derive, directly or indirectly, any material part of its income from sources within the United States and which is not a public-utility company operating within the United States, or (2) involve special or unusual circumstances or are not in the ordinary course of business.

(c) Determination and allocation of costs; duration of contracts; regulation by rules of Commission

The rules and regulations and orders of the Commission under this section may prescribe, among other things, such terms and conditions regarding the determination of costs and the allocation thereof among specified classes of companies and for specified classes of service, sales, and construction contracts, the duration of such contracts, the making and keeping of accounts and cost-accounting procedures, the filing of annual and other periodic and special reports, the maintenance of competitive conditions, the disclosure of interests, and similar matters, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers.

(d) Application for approval as mutual service company and nature of business; regulation by rules of Commission

The rules and regulations and orders of the Commission under this section shall prescribe, among other things, such terms and conditions regarding the manner in which application may be made for approval as a mutual service company and the granting and continuance of such approval, the nature and enforcement of agreements for the sharing of expenses and distributing of revenues among member companies, and matters relating to such agreements, the nature and types of businesses and transactions in which mutual service companies may engage, and the manner of engaging therein, and the relations and transactions with member companies and affiliates, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors or consumers. The Commission shall not approve, or continue the approval of, any company as a mutual service company unless the Commission finds such company is so organized as to ownership, costs, revenues, and the sharing thereof as reasonably to insure the efficient and economical performance of service, sales, or construction contracts by such company for member companies, at cost fairly and equitably allocated among such member companies, at a reasonable saving to member companies over the cost to such companies of comparable contracts performed by independent persons. The Commission, upon its own motion or at the request of a member company or a State commission, may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, by order require a reallocation or reapportionment of costs among member companies of a mutual service company if it finds the existing allocation inequitable and may require the elimination of a service or services to a member company which does not bear its fair proportion of costs or which, by reason of its size or other circumstances, does not re-